

**Claims:**

**1. (Currently Amended)** A method comprising:

Receiving, by a media player, a request to play a first recorded audio file and a second audio file;

progressively analyzing, by the media player, consecutive data samples of the first audio file to determine a data sample wherein ~~a-an output~~ threshold is reached to identify a ~~first~~ identify:

an effective start of audio position associated with the first audio file; and

~~a-an effective start of fade-out position associated with the first audio file;~~

progressively analyzing consecutive data samples of the second audio file to determine a data sample wherein ~~a-an output~~ threshold is reached to identify ~~a-second~~ an effective audio start position associated with the second audio file;

playing the first audio file beginning at the ~~first~~ effective start position associated with the first audio file;

upon reaching the effective start of fade-out position associated with the first audio file:

fading-out playback of the first audio file; and

while fading-out playback of the first audio file, simultaneously fading-in playback of the second audio file beginning at the second effective start position associated with the second audio file.

**2. (Currently Amended)** A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the fade-out position associated with the first audio file is located a predetermined time ahead of an effective end position associated with the first audio file.

**3. (Currently Amended)** A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the first effective start position associated with the first audio file differs from the actual start position of the first audio file.

**4. (Original)** A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising fading-out playback of the second audio file upon reaching a fade-out position associated with the second audio file.

**5. (Currently Amended)** A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the first effective start position associated with the first audio file and the fade-out position associated with the first audio file are stored in a media library.

**6. (Currently Amended)** A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the ~~first~~ effective start position associated with the first audio file and the fade-out position associated with the first audio file are stored in the first audio file.

**7. (Original)** One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 1.

**8. (Currently Amended)** A method comprising:

Receiving, by an audio cross-fade engine, a request to analyze an audio file;

selecting the first two data samples in the audio file;

calculating an average value of the first two data samples in the audio file;

if the average value exceeds a threshold value, marking the second data sample as an effective start position associated with the audio file and marking the first data sample as silent;

if the average value does not exceed the threshold value:

selecting subsequent data samples in the audio file and updating the average value of all selected data samples until the average value exceeds a threshold value;

marking a current data sample as an effective start position associated with the audio file; and

marking previously selected data samples as silent.

**9. (Original)** A method as recited in claim 8 wherein the average value of the data samples is calculated based on volume levels in the audio file.

**10. (Original)** A method as recited in claim 8 further comprising saving the effective start position associated with the audio file to a media library.

**11. (Original)** A method as recited in claim 8 further comprising saving the effective start position associated with the audio file to a storage device that stores the audio file.

**12. (Original)** A method as recited in claim 8 further comprising saving information regarding data samples marked as silent to a storage device that stores the audio file.

**13. (Original)** A method as recited in claim 8 wherein the effective start position is applied during subsequent playback of the audio file.

**14. (Original)** A method as recited in claim 8 wherein the effective start position is applied during subsequent playback of the audio file to determine a point at which the audio file begins to fade-in as a previous audio file fades out.

**15. (Original)** One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 8.

**16. (Currently Amended)** A method comprising:

receiving, by an audio cross-fade engine, a request to analyze an audio file;

selecting the last two data samples in the audio file;

calculating an average value of the last two data samples in the audio file;

if the average value exceeds a threshold value, marking the last data sample as an effective end position associated with the audio file and marking the other selected data sample as silent;

if the average value does not exceed the threshold value:

selecting previous data samples in the audio file and updating the average value of all selected data samples until the average value exceeds a threshold value;

marking a current data sample as an effective end position associated with the audio file; and

marking previously selected data samples as silent.

**17. (Original)** A method as recited in claim 16 wherein the method is performed by a media player application.

**18. (Original)** A method as recited in claim 16 further comprising saving the effective end position associated with the audio file in a media library.

**19. (Original)** A method as recited in claim 16 further comprising saving the effective end position associated with the audio file to a storage device that stores the audio file.

**20. (Original)** A method as recited in claim 16 wherein the average value of the data samples is calculated based on volume levels in the audio file.

**21. (Original)** A method as recited in claim 16 further comprising saving information regarding data samples marked as silent to a storage device that stores the audio file.

**22. (Original)** A method as recited in claim 16 wherein the effective end position is applied during subsequent playback of the audio file.

**23. (Original)** A method as recited in claim 16 wherein the effective end position is applied during subsequent playback of the audio file to determine a point at which the audio file begins to fade-out.

**24. (Original)** One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 16.

**25. (Currently Amended)** An apparatus comprising:  
a cross-fade parameter calculator [[to]] configured to:  
progressively analyze consecutive data samples of ~~the~~a first audio  
file to determine a data sample wherein a output threshold is ~~reached and~~  
reached; and

calculate at least one fade-out parameter associated with the first audio file;

a media library coupled to the cross-fade parameter calculator, the media library configured to store fade-out parameters associated with a plurality of audio files, wherein the fade-out parameters are stored separate from the audio files; and

a cross-fader coupled to the media library, the cross-fader configured to apply fade-out parameters during playback of audio files.

**26. (Currently Amended)** An apparatus as recited in claim 25 wherein the cross-fade parameter calculator calculates—is further configured to calculate an effective start position associated with the first audio file.

**27. (Currently Amended)** An apparatus as recited in claim 25 wherein the cross-fade parameter calculator calculates—is further configured to calculate an effective end position associated with the first audio file.

**28. (Currently Amended)** An apparatus as recited in claim 25 wherein the cross-fader retrieves—is further configured to retrieve fade-out parameters from the media library.

**29. (Currently Amended)** An apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a request to play a first audio file followed by a second audio file;

means for progressively analyzing consecutive data samples of the first audio file to determine a data sample wherein a-an output threshold is reached to identify a first effective start position and a fade-out position associated with the first audio file, and

progressively analyzing consecutive data samples of the second audio file to determine a data sample wherein a-an output threshold is reached to identify a second effective start position associated with the second audio file; and

means for playing the first audio file beginning at the first effective start position, wherein upon reaching the fade-out position associated with the first audio file, the means for playing fades-out playback of the first audio file and begins playing the second audio file beginning at the second effective start position.

**30. (Original)** An apparatus as recited in claim 29 wherein the fade-out position is located a predetermined time prior to an effective end position associated with the first audio file.

**31. (Original)** An apparatus as recited in claim 29 wherein the means for playing fades-out playback of the second audio file upon reaching a fade-out position associated with the second audio file.

**32. (Original)** An apparatus as recited in claim 29 wherein the start position associated with the first audio file, the fade-out position associated with the first audio file, and the second effective start position associated with the second audio file are retrieved from a media library.

**33. (Original)** An apparatus as recited in claim 29 wherein the start position associated with the first audio file and the fade-out position associated with the first audio file are retrieved from the first audio file.

**34. (Currently Amended)** One or more computer-readable storage media having stored thereon a computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform a method comprising:

receiving by the one or more processors a request to play a sequence of audio files;

progressively analyzing consecutive data samples in the sequence of audio files, yielding data to calculate an effective start position and a fade-out position associated with the first audio file;

progressively analyzing consecutive data samples of a second audio file in the sequence of audio files, yielding data to calculate an effective start position associated with a second audio file, wherein the second audio file is adjacent and subsequent to the first audio file within the sequence of audio files;

playing the first audio file beginning at the effective start position associated with the first audio file;

upon reaching the fade-out position associated with the first audio file:

fading-out playback of the first audio file; and

playing the second audio file beginning at the effective start position associated with the second audio file.

**35. (Currently Amended)** One or more computer-readable storage media as recited in claim 34 wherein the fade-out position associated with the first audio file is calculated by subtracting a predetermined time period from an effective end position associated with the first audio file.

**36. (Currently Amended)** One or more computer-readable storage media as recited in claim 34 wherein the one or more processors further fade-out

playback of the second audio file upon reaching a fade-out position associated with the second audio file.

**37. (Currently Amended)** One or more computer-readable storage media as recited in claim 34 wherein the one or more processors further calculate effective start positions and fade-out positions associated with each audio file in the sequence of audio files.